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# MANAGEMENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

U. S. Department of Agriculture

A summary of significant events of  
interest to USDA management

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## NEW APPOINTMENTS.....

... Assistant Secretary for Administration - Joan Wallace, an educator and sociologist has been named Assistant Secretary for Administration.

Dr. Wallace is the first Black woman to be an assistant secretary in the Department.

Dr. Wallace was born in Chicago. She obtained her bachelors degree in sociology from Bradley, her masters from Columbia and her Ph. D. in social psychology from Northwestern. She also attended the Harvard Institute for Educational Management.

Most recently, Dr. Wallace has been director of the School of Social Work at Western Michigan. Prior to that, she was vice-president of Morgan State where she had responsibility for community affairs, public information, affirmative action, federal relations, institutional development, and alumni affairs.

From 1975 to 1976, Dr. Wallace was deputy executive director of programs for the National Urban League. She was associate dean of the Howard University School of Social Work from 1973 to 1975. From 1967 to 1973, Dr. Wallace was an assistant professor, then associate professor and director of undergraduate social work at the University of Illinois.

Dr. Wallace has written a number of publications and reports dealing with social work and Black culture and has been a consultant to a dozen institutions and organizations.

...Office of Operations and Finance - Dennis Boyd, Director of the National Finance Center, has been named Acting Director, Office of Operations and Finance, effective October 25. This office consists of the former OADS, OF, and OO.

REVIEW OF SPACE REQUIREMENTS.....The recently announced reorganization of the Department has given new significance to the Washington space situation. At the present time, major space realignments to accommodate reorganization would be difficult, if not impossible. Further, GSA states that no additional space will be available in the near term to alleviate the Department's problems. It appears, therefore, that all space adjustments resulting from reorganization must be accomplished within our existing inventory.

One of the first steps that must be taken is to assess the impact of reorganization on existing agency space requirements. It is expected that, in the near future, an effort to update all agency space requirements will begin. (Contact: Al Cauley, O&F, ext. 72815)

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PERSONNEL PROGRAM.....The Intergovernmental Personnel Program provides for temporary assignments between the Federal Government and State or local governments, educational institutions, and Indian tribes for work of mutual concern or benefit. This may involve the assignment of one employee to another jurisdiction, or an exchange of employees.

The Department entered into 169 agreements during FY 1977. Assignments were made in the following areas: research, personnel, agricultural economics, engineering, foreign agricultural affairs, public information, forestry, soil conservation, and soil science. These assignments were for periods of up to two years. The major user of the program was the Forest Service with a total of 88 assignments. A total of 108 State employees were assigned to USDA agencies and 61 USDA employees accepted assignments to State and local governments. (Contact: Pat Killen, OP, ext. 72435)

MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE.....The Statistical Reporting Service has entered into a cooperative agreement with Tennessee State University, an 1980 Land-Grant School located in Nashville. Under this agreement, Rex Butler, an agricultural statistician and computer systems specialist, was assigned by SRS to work on the campus.

It was necessary to develop a curriculum in statistics within the School of Agriculture that would qualify students to become agricultural statisticians without further training. Professor Butler says that "Tennessee State University is the first and only predominantly Black college to offer such a curriculum."

Nine graduates of Tennessee State have been employed by SRS. Last summer, three undergraduates were employed as student assistants by the agency. (Contact: Paul McCloskey, OEO, ext. 77921)

CIVIL RIGHTS WORKSHOP.....A Servicewide Forest Service Civil Rights Workshop was held in Atlanta from October 18-21. The major purpose was to unify efforts aimed at positive accomplishment of the approved Forest Service Civil Rights Plan. The emphasis for workshop participants will be on implementation processes now that an Affirmative Action Plan has been developed and civil rights units established. (Contact: Jetie B. Wilds, Jr., FS, ext. 78441)

PERSONNEL INTERCHANGE PROCESS (PIP).....Personnel Bulletin No. 412-35, Dated October 3, announced the second year of the PIP Program. To date, agencies have identified nine positions that are available to personnel from outside the Department. In addition, two special assignments are also available.

Agency nominations of individuals with high-potential to participate in PIP were due in OP by October 31. (Contact: Tom Gill, OP, ext. 74259)



COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN.....Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland officially kicked off the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) at the U. S. Department of Agriculture October 13, by making the first donation toward USDA's goal of \$453,453.

Ray Fitzgerald, Administrator of ASCS, Vice Chairman for this year's CFC at USDA, accepted Secretary Bergland's donation for CFC.

During the first week of the drive, 17% of USDA employees donated \$115,313; 25% of the goal. This represents an average gift of \$63.08.

The Graduate School has exceeded the dollar goal with only 2% employee participation. FGIS has reached 125% of the dollar goal with 80% participation.

Agencies having met at least 50 percent of their dollar goal during the first week include: AMS, EMSC, FAS, OGSM, OMF, OO, OP, and SEC. (Contact: G. F. Sedgwick, ARS, ext. 73801)

VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT ACTION.....During the past year, Forest Service has made a concerted effort to locate and employ Vietnam Era and disabled veterans. These efforts have resulted in a slight increase in the number of Veterans Readjustment Act (VRA) appointments.

Although these efforts are encouraging, the unemployment rate for Vietnam Era and disabled veterans continues to remain high. In recognition of this fact, Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland has requested an increased effort to make additional employment opportunities available.

Affirmative Action Plans recently developed by the Forest Service and approved by the Department's Office of Personnel outline specific action which will help to advance and strengthen this program. Such action currently includes job analysis studies made to identify suitable jobs; outreach activities with local veteran organizations and employment services; the preparation of training plans for VRA employees; and informing veterans' representatives of available positions. (Contact: Jim Arthur, FS, 235-8203)

THE FEDERAL GRANT AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT ACT OF 1977.....The Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977 passed the House on September 27 and the Senate on October 1. Only limited hearings on this Bill were held in the House Committee, and OMB testimony supported the Bill at that time. USDA was not asked to comment. This is essentially the same Bill which the Department opposed in the past and was pocket vetoed late last year. It appears likely that the current Bill will be signed into Law after minor differences are cleared up in a Senate-House Conference on the measure. The Bill provides for a study of Federal assistance delivery systems and also provides for OMB to develop interim operating regulations for distinguishing between contracts, grants and cooperative agreements. This Bill is likely to have a major impact on Departmental programs. (Contact: Don Manns, O&F, ext. 77527)

FY 1978 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS.....The House completed action on the FY 1978 Supplemental Appropriations Bill on October 25. Items for USDA in this bill were unchanged from the amounts previously reported. The Senate is expected to take action within the next few days. (Contact: B. L. Barham, OBPE, ext. 76176)

COMPUTER CENTER PROCUREMENT SUMMARY.....

...KCCC - A decision by the Comptroller General on the Burrough's protest is expected about November 15. Installation is planned for March 1978.

...NOCC - Vendor proposals have been received. Installation is planned for May 1978.

...FCCC - The procurement and solicitation documents are undergoing final review. The request for DPA should be submitted about November 15.

...WCC - A requirements study was initiated in September 15. Procurement and solicitation documents are now being developed.

(Contact: Ray Long, ADS, ext. 76275)

NEW ENERGY CENTER.....The Georgia Institute of Technology and the Georgia Forestry Commission are collaborating in a proposal to establish a Regional Wood Energy Center at Georgia Tech. The Forest Service will participate in the Center with emphasis on supply, demand and environmental questions. Georgia Tech will concentrate on combustion technology. (Contact: John Erickson, FS, ext. 75653)

1977 YEARBOOK OF AGRICULTURE....."Gardening for Food and Fun," the 1977 Yearbook has been released. Secretary Bergland described it as "a practical book for gardeners of all types--from the beginner to the proficient, from young people to retired persons."

The Yearbook has 400 pages of gardening text plus 32 pages of color photos. It is organized into four sections: "Introduction to Gardening," "Home Garden Vegetables," "Fruits and Nuts," and "Home Food Preservation."

A copy of the Yearbook may be purchased at government bookstores for \$6.50 or may be obtained by sending a check or money order for that amount to Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402. Order by stock number 001-000-03679-3.